

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CPR-01 /058 W

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P R 280415Z JAN 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3143

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0140

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH US

SUBJECT: PRC PUBLISHES PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS TO CHOU EN-LAI

1. NCNA NOVEMBER 27 CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI CONTRATULATING HIM ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS PREMIER. FACT THAT GREETINGS RECEIVED FROM U.S. ALSO REPORTED NATIONWIDE RADIO. PRESIDENT'S LETTER STATES HE LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING WITH CHOU "LATER THIS YEAR.." WHILE NOTING CHOU'S STATEMENT IN HIS REPORT TO THE 4TH NPC THAT "FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES" REMAIN BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, LETTER EXPRESSES HOPE THAT "THROUGH COMMON EFFORTS WE CAN OVERCOME THESE DIFFERENCES AND ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF NORMALIZING SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND HUS FULFILL THE JOINT COMMITMENT EXPRESSED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE OF 1972."

2. COMMENT: PUBLICATION OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER PROBABLY REFLECTS A POSITIVE PRC ASSESSMENT OF ITS IMPACT BOTH
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DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE LETTER'S

REFERENCE TO ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF NORMALIZING
RELATIONS, IN PARTICULAR, IS A USEFUL SIGN OF PROGRESS
AND CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE BLEAK ASSESSMENT OF
PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS
CONTAINED IN CHOU'S REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT.
AS WE HAVE NOTED PREVIOUSLY, THE CHINESE ALSO APPEAR
TO BE ENGAGED IN A DELICATE CAMPAIGN TO NUDGE US TOWARD
MORE RAPID MOTION IN THE PACE OF NORMALIZATION. BY
PUBLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER THEY MIGHT ALSO
HOPE TO REINFORCE THE U.S. PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO
PROGRESS IN THAT DIRECTION.
HOLDRIDGE

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